



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional Development Australia

Wide Bay Burnett

Regional Data and Insights

About RDA WBB

- Regional Development Australia (RDA) is an Australian Government initiative that brings together all levels of government to enhance the economic development of Australia's regions
- Dedicated to facilitating growth and economic development in regional Australia through economic and workforce development, local procurement, infrastructure investments and strategic regional planning.
- RDAs inform government policy and programs.
- A national network of 54 RDA committees
- Chair and Deputy positions are appointed by Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
- Funded by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications



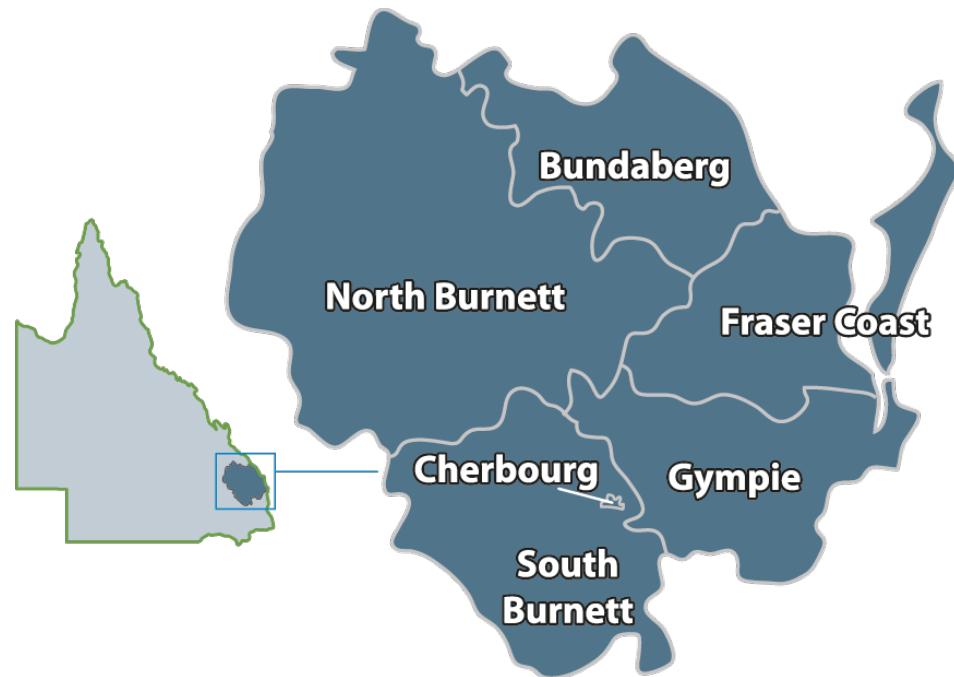
Regional Development Australia

W I D E B A Y B U R N E T T



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RDA WBB works
across 6 local
government areas



RDA WBB's Board



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**Bill Trevor
OAM (Chair)**

Childers/Bundaberg



Tania O'Shea

Bundaberg



**Tony Nioa
(Deputy Chair)**

Maryborough



Bree Watson

Bundaberg



**John Zahl
(Secretary)**

Gayndah



Kerren Smith

Gympie



**Ed Gibson
(Treasurer)**

Hervey Bay



Petra Van Beek

Gympie



**Tanya
Stevenson**

Hervey Bay



John Carey

Kingaroy



RDA WBB's Staff

Sotera Trevaskis

Director of Regional Development



Carly Spicer

Executive Assistant



Jared Crooks

Jobs Fraser Coast - Project Officer



Tim Sayre

Jobs Bundaberg - Project Officer



The RDA network



Regional insights



Approximately 48,598 square kilometres



113,961 employed residents
109,360 local jobs



Wide Bay Burnett Region's Gross Regional Product was **\$14.19 billion** in the year ending June 2021, growing **5.9%** since the previous year



Home to 310,278 residents



22,097 local businesses



Key Industries:
Healthcare & Social Assistance 18.1%
Retail 10.5%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing 9.8%
Education & Training 9.5%
Construction 8.9% Manufacturing 8.2%
Accommodation & Food Services 6.2%

Our Region is Growing



- **Infrastructure investment:** roads, digital connectivity, hospitals, regional train manufacturing
- **Decarbonisation projects :** renewables (Borumba Dam Pumped Hydro Project, battery storage, circular economy)
- **Workforce projects:** Gympie Regional Jobs Committee
- **Procurement:** supplying to government, major regional projects, Brisbane 2032 opportunities
- **Resources and mining:** rare minerals (gold, silica sand, limestone, bentonite, kaolin and other prospects)
- **Agriculture:** timber, food value add & AgriTourism
- **Regional employment and business:** Ausindustry, Export Finance Australia, Trade and Investment Queensland
- **Drought and flood mitigation:** local council led
- **Health and social assistance sector:** largest employer in the region
- **Education:** increasing demand for education and training (particularly tertiary education)
- **Tourism:** Brisbane 2032 opportunities

Projects of Significance

- Bruce Highway bypass (Tiaro)
- Borumba Pumped Hydro project
- Bundaberg Hospital Development
- Renewable Energy Projects (wind, battery and solar)
- Queensland Train Manufacturing
- Port of Bundaberg (Pacific Tugs)
- Hinkler Regional Deal (Main Street Revitalisation)



Regional Success Stories

Building Better Regions Fund – over \$200m awarded to projects in Wide Bay Burnett

- \$29m Rhienmettal Noia – Maryborough
- Bundaberg Brewed Drinks - Bundaberg
- \$9m Plenty Foods – Kingaroy
- \$4.5m Kingaroy Streetscape Improvements
- \$5.7m Biggenden Water Treatment Plant



How can RDA help?

- Connecting businesses to opportunity
- Supporting application readiness – tendering to government, funding programs, review of applications, policy and program advice
- Review and advice
- Economic modelling
- Letters of support
- Access to capital (via Export Finance Australia) + other agencies to support growth
- Investment ready support – introduction to other agencies, economic modelling
- Grant funding
- Advocacy

New Australian Government Programs

- **Regional and Community Programs:**

[Growing Regions Program](#)

[Priority Community Infrastructure Program](#)

[Investing in Our Communities Program](#)

[Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program](#)



Information on program guidelines, eligibility criteria and the application process will be provided in due course.

- **New funding programs:**

- Not yet finalised by Government
- Seeks to deliver a consistent way to fund and coordinate projects across regional Australia
- Open and competitive with grants process awarded on a merit basis.



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Tony Nioa – Deputy Chair

Disclaimer

- 1/ Tony Nioa does not speak for or on behalf of Rheinmettall Nioa and any of his comments, predictions or interpretations as part of this presentation are based upon his opinions and observations.
- 2/ Presenter Tony Nioa was NOT Deputy Chair of Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett during advocacy for and granting of Commonwealth Funds to the joint venture Rheinmettall Nioa munitions forging plant. Mr Nioa was appointed to the committee of RDA Wide Bay Burnett after the facility was funded and committed for Maryborough.

The Project

- The facility produces artillery shell cases for the Aust Defence Force and Allied forces around the globe
- The facility will ensure that future munitions supplies are Australian- made and create Australian Industry Capability



- The facility will create 100 direct, highly-skilled manufacturing jobs and 300 in construction.
- Built on a greenfield site in Maryborough, QLD

Why Maryborough?

- Proud history of manufacturing from ship and train building to forging and heavy equipment for mining industry
- Greenfield site positioned beside national highway in established industrial park
- Three levels of govt support
- \$29m grant from Commonwealth's *Regional Growth Fund*
- Existing manufacturing workforce



Why Governments invest in regional projects of significance



The Catalyst

- Maryborough Sugar Mill closed for the first time after 100 years, more than 75 jobs lost
- Majority of jobs immediately absorbed by munitions factory and existing manufacturing growth – e.g. train manufacture
- Program to reskill current workforce, built community confidence
- Project has attracted new innovation and industry creating more than 300 additional jobs including \$100m battery manufacturing facility next door
- Utilised local content for construction creating additional jobs – Hyne Timber new product utilised for main office building





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Questions?

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